

advance and so that we could keep supplies up with the troops. He advanced with his men in the attack of September 29th on the Hindenburg Line and was standing on the parapet of the trench directing his men when a shell exploded close by, killing him almost instantly, one piece of shrapnel hitting him in the forehead and another in the chest. He was not disfigured hardly at all.

As I wrote his mother, I considered him one of my best Officers and was personally very much attached to him. He had been associated with me in Highway Work in the States before joining the Army.

The boys in his company liked him very much indeed and he had the respect and friendship of all the Officers of the regiment.

He was buried in the Tincourt Military Cemetery and we erected a cross over his grave. His belongings were addressed to his mother and sent to the Quartermaster for forwarding, she should have received them by this time.

The battle in which he was killed was one of the turning points of the War and it was in this battle that the 30th Division broke through and smashed the Hindenburg Line, which was thought to be impregnable. It was a big achievement and the 30th made a big name for themselves in defeating the Germans on the Hindenburg Line.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) JOSEPH HYDE PRATT."

Among the records in the possession of the brother, J. M. Field, is a large brown envelope covered with cancelled stamps, numerals and stamped notations of various kinds. It bears the post mark of Climax, North Carolina, October 17th, 1918, and is addressed as registered mail from J. M. Field to Lieut. Bascom L. Field, Somewhere in France. Stamped on it are these words "Deceased." Verified by R. & F. Div. P. E. S. C. P. O. A. E. F., in an inked square are these words "Killed in action at Hargicourt, Sept. 29th, 1918. Willard P. Sullivan, Capt. Engrs. Adj. 105 Engineers." Within are two letters written on plain paper, the letters being signed in childish scrawl: